#### **BOOK SHOP**

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## New Books

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Doran .....

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# NEWEST BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS

DID YOU KNOW THAT-

Commander Richard E. Byrd has signed a contract with G. P. Putnam's Sons to write the story of his life and adventures, including in it not only the stories of his arctic and trans-Atlantic flights, but also something of his plans for the proposed South Pole flight?

Victoria Sackville West has been announced as the winner of the Hawthornden poetry prize for 1927 with her long poem, "The Land"?

"The Private Notebook of Hans Christian Anderson' has been translated by Carl Lorain Withers and is published in English for the first time in the Forum for Septem-

The new Playhouse, opening September 3, hopes to become a headquarters for writers and other literary persons after the manner of the Fifth Avenue Playhouse in New York, by operating as a little cinema playhouse, and is showing "Potemkin" as its opening attraction?

Frank Harris is going to write at least one more volume to add to his autobiography, "My Life?"

The New York Times of last Sunday has a heated article on "Standardizing the Human Soul," wherein T. R. Ybarra reviews two books by Rene Fulop-Miller, a German critic, who sees Russia exceeding America in uniformity. We had always suffered under the misapprehension that creation, aided and abetted by the famous clause in the Constitution of these United (?) long ago.

### New and Entertaining FICTION

THE GRANDMOTHERS (new Harper Prize book) Glenway Wescott .....\$2.50 THE THUNDERER E. Barrington .....\$2.50 NOW EAST NOW WEST Susan Ertz. ZELDA MARSH Charles G. Norris .....\$2.50 THE BACCHANTE Robert Hichens .....\$2.50 THE SPREADING DAWN Basil King ......\$2.00

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#### Dreiser Publishes New Re-edit of "The Financier"

"THE FINANCIER." By Theodore Dreiser.

Once more Theodore Dreiser makes his "drive"—the immense energy displayed makes no other word so appropriate-upon the existing world. In "The Financier," which is a revised and perfected version of the book written fifteen years ago, Mr. Dreiser has taken the world of politics and finance in the Philadelphia of fifty years back. Whether Mr. Dreiser purposely took this setting to avoid controversy or not, it was a clever move. Particularly as the situation has repeated itself more than once in the country within the last decade.

Frank Cowperwood is a brilliant figure of a man. With his usual thing more than we can see-his development step by step from a clever boy with a flair for business, to the promising young commission merchant and the clever opportunist and financier.

The best part of the book is the spirit of the financial world which the author is able to get across. So ably does he do it that when Cowperwood really oversteps the bounds of straight dealing we cannot help sympathizing with him. Then as in "An American Tragedy" we are drawn through the long toils of a trial. Dreiser seems to roll about on his tongue the wearisome details of the trial, excellent States, had settled that controversy scope for his relentlessly realistic style.

Yet except for the effect on Cowperwood's character of his denouncement, the main interest of the story was over at the beginning of the trial. The upbuilding of a fortune, the opsky. It is a big book, "The Financier," companions. perhaps in the forefront of those which have pictured the business world.

-ESTHER GOULD.

#### New Books for Autumn

novel of full-length that she has published in ten years, "Counterpoint"; Hugh Walpole is returning to one of his most successful characters in "Jeremy at Crale"; Floyd Dell will make another snatch at waning popularity in "An Unmarried Father"; Elizabeth Madox Roberts, who set the critics by their ears last fall, has her second novel "Green Pastures"; Nathalie Sedgewick Colby, one of the discoveries of the Spring will make a reappearance in "Black Stream."

Illinois ranks third in the manufacture of house furnishings, not classified under special headings. Forty-nine plants employ more than 1,300 persons. Salaries and wages total about \$1,750,-000; value of products, \$8,725,000 yearly. New York and Massachusetts lead.

### Pot Shots at Pot Boilers

IV/E have always enjoyed Stendhal's W analytical enlarging of romantic themes, but we suspect him of being either over-optimistic or sardonic in beginning his essay, "On Love," which has just been translated into English, when he says, "I am trying to account for that passion all of whose developments are inherently beautiful." Which reminds us emphatically of what the old lady said when she kissed the cow.

TUST as "A Good Woman" is pri-I marily a story of effects, so is "The Grandmothers," by Glenway skill Dreiser builds him up before our Wescott, a narration of causes. Mr. eyes, not asking us to believe any- Wescott has written a story of the childhood of Wisconsin and incorporated in it a history of America that is superior to anything of its type that we have ever read. He has the insight that Lewis lacks and if you have despaired over the Lewis mouthings, you will find "The Grandmothers" a satisfying purge for your emotions. The book is beautifully written and throughout the volume there are casual sentences that reach the profound depths of philosophy. The one we do not ever expect to forget is, "Some believed that they would become so happy that they would dare to remember their grief."

THE friends of that most suave and I ingratiating individual, "Wildcat," will be interested in his latest pursuit of Lady Luck as chronicled in "Fo' Meals a Day," by High Wiley. Wildcat's chaotic scramblings have portunities seen and taken and finally been a deservedly popular item of curthe slight shading which separates rent short fiction for some time and, legal and illegal practice, these are whether one is an admirer of stories thrown upward with the power of of the negro or not, there is some-Dreiser's skill as the steel framework thing vastly appealing about this of a skyscraper is thrown into the naive personality and his amazing

A NOTHER of those "only-a-yearto-live" books has appeared in the guise of "Death of a Young Man," by W. L. River, and proves its claim to uniqueness by actually killing off A long and interesting list of books the main character. The author, is offered by the publishers for the through his hero, views the world fall. H. G. Wells is to have a new with complete objectivity and we novel of modern life, "Meanwhile"; agree with him in his belief that such Willa Cather's long looked for novel reasoning leads to madness, and so to of the days of Kit Carson, "Death suicide. Mr. River has avoided the Comes to the Archbishop"; William sentimental with a vengeance, and the J. Locke has a novel of England, result is an interesting idea written "The Kingdom of Theophilus"; Jo- out of too analytical an intelligence. sephine Dascom Bacon has the first The book is a metaphorical dog chasing his metaphorical tail.

> NUMBER of "eminent authors," those most vehement people, have united in protest against Boston's recent action in banning Jim Tulley's "Circus Parade." In a formal statement they prophesy that "if Boston's policy of censorship is allowed, and other communities follow its example, serious writing about American life is doomed." Bless their corrugated brows, we think they really haven't any cause to worry. (And the gorgeous part of it is the fact that Fannie Hurst and Rupert Hughes are among the outstanding individuals of those present.)

B. B.